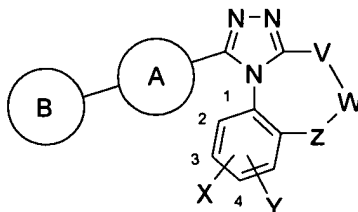


In the claims:

1. (previously presented) A compound of formula (I),



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester, or amide thereof, wherein

V represents $-(CH_2)_d(O)_e-$, $-CO-$, or $-CH(C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})-$;

W is $-O-$, $-S(O)_a-$, or $-N(R^1)-$

R^1 represents H, C_{1-6} alkyl, $(CH_2)_bCOR^2$, $CO(CH_2)_bNR^2R^3$, SO_2R^2 , $(CH_2)_cOR^2$, $(CH_2)_cNR^2R^3$, or $(CH_2)_b\text{het}^1$;

het^1 represents a saturated or unsaturated heterocycle of from 3 to 8 atoms containing one or more heteroatoms selected from O, N, or S, optionally substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl;

X and Y independently represent H, C_{1-6} alkyl, halogen, OH, CF_3 , OCF_3 , OR^4 ;

Z represents $-(CH_2)_f(O)_g-$, $-CO-$ or $-CH(C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})-$;

Ring **A** represents a 4-7 membered, saturated N-containing heterocycle, optionally substituted with OH, and in which optionally at least one ring N is substituted with O;

Ring **B** represents phenyl or a 4-7 membered unsaturated N-containing heterocycle, optionally substituted with OH, halogen, CN, CONH₂, CF₃, OCF₃, and in which optionally at least one ring N is substituted with O;

R² and R³ independently represent H, C₁₋₆ alkyl [optionally substituted with OH, halogen, N(C₁₋₆ alkyl)₂, or C₁₋₆ alkyloxy], C₁₋₆ alkyloxy, N(C₁₋₆ alkyl)₂, or [C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl]; or R² and R³, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached independently represent a heterocycle of from 3 to 8 atoms, optionally substituted with C₁₋₆ alkyl;

R⁴ represents straight or branched C₁₋₆ alkyl;

a and c independently represent 0, 1, or 2;

b, e and g independently represent 0 or 1; and

d and f independently represent 1 or 2.

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein W represents NR¹.

3. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R¹ represents H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, -(CH₂)_bCOR² or SO₂R².

4. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R¹ is methyl.

5. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is morpholinyl or pyrimidinyl (optionally substituted with C_{1-6} alkyl [optionally substituted with OH, halogen, $N(C_{1-6} \text{ alkyl})_2$, or C_{1-6} alkyloxy] or NMe_2).
6. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is H.
7. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein Y is in the 4-position of the phenylene ring (according to the numbering of formula (I)) to which it is attached.
8. (original) A compound according to claim 7, wherein Y is chloro.
9. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein ring **A** is linked to ring **B** via a nitrogen atom in ring **A**.
10. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein ring **A** represents piperidinyl (optionally substituted with OH, and optionally at least one N is substituted with O).
11. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein ring **B** represents pyridinyl or pyrimidinyl (optionally substituted with OH, halogen, CN, $CONH_2$, CF_3 , OCF_3 , and optionally at least one ring N is substituted with O).
12. (original) A compound according to claim 11, wherein ring **B** represents pyridinyl.

13. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein V represents -CH₂-.

14. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein Z represents -CH₂-.

15. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein when R² and R³ together with the nitrogen to which they are attached represent a heterocycle, the heterocycle is selected from piperazinyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, pyrimidinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, or morpholinyl, optionally substituted with C₁₋₆ alkyl.

16. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, selected from:

8-chloro-5-methyl-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene trihydrochloride;

8-chloro-5-methyl-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene dibesylate;

8-chloro-5-isopropyl-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene trihydrochloride;

1-[8-chloro-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulen-5-yl]-ethanone dihydrochloride;

8-chloro-5-methanesulfonyl-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

8-chloro-5-methyl-1-(1-pyrimidin-2-yl-piperidin-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

8-chloro-5-methyl-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

8-chloro-5-methanesulfonyl-1-(1-pyrimidin-2-yl-piperidin-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

13-chloro-8-methyl-3-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-2,4,5,8-tetraaza-tricyclo[9.4.0.0*2,6*]pentadeca-1(11),3,5,12,14-pentaene;

13-chloro-3-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-8-oxa-2,4,5-triaza-tricyclo[9.4.0.0*2,6*]pentadeca-1(11),3,5,12,14-pentaene;

1-[8-chloro-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulen-5-yl]-2-dimethylamino-ethanone;

[8-chloro-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulen-5-yl]-morpholin-4-yl-methanone;

(+) or (-) 8-chloro-5-(4-methyl-morpholin-2-ylmethyl)-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

8-chloro-5-pyrimidin-2-yl-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-5,6-dihydro-4H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene;

8-chloro-1-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-sulphonic acid dimethylamide;

8-chloro-1-(1-pyrimidin-2-yl-piperidin-4-yl)-4H,6H-2,3,5,10b-tetraaza-benzo[e]azulene-5-sulphonic acid dimethylamide;

13-chloro-9-methyl-3-(3,4,5,6-tetrahydro-2H-[1,2']bipyridinyl-4-yl)-2,4,5,9-tetraaza-tricyclo[9.4.0.0*2,6*]pentadeca-1(11),3,5,12,14-pentaene; and
13-chloro-8-methyl-3-(1-pyrimidin-2-yl-piperidin-4-yl)-2,4,5,8-tetraaza-tricyclo[9.4.0.0*2,6*]pentadeca-1(11),3,5,12,14-pentaene; or pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, esters, or amides thereof.

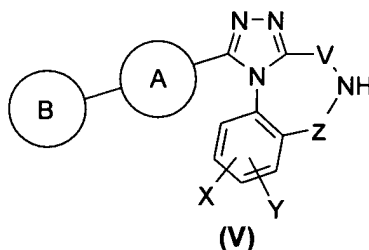
17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) A method of treating a disorder selected from the group consisting of dysmenorrhoea (primary or secondary) and anxiety comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 to a patient suffering from such a disorder.

19. (original) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound according to claim 1, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier.

Claims 20-23 (canceled)

24. (previously presented) A process for making a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, wherein W represents NR^1 , or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester, or amide thereof, comprising: reacting a compound of formula (V)



with a compound of formula (VII)



wherein rings **A** and **B**, and groups R^1 , X, Y and n are as defined in claim 1.

Claims 25-26 (canceled)